

Remarks

The Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-7 in the underlying PCT application. This Preliminary Amendment further cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-7 in the annex to the IPER, and adds new claims 8-14. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter.


The above amendments to the title, specification and abstract conform the title, specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application No. PCT/DE98/02692 includes an International Search Report dated February 19, 1999. An English translation of the Search Report is included herewith.


The underlying PCT application also includes an IPER, dated December 7, 1999. An English translation of the IPER and the annex thereto is included herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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